

both issues, apparently assuming that of 1775 to be a true Ankündigung.

Cobres, 'Deliciae Cobresianae,' p. 387 (1782), gives "Syst. Verzeichniß . . . 1776," but adds, "Anfänglich kam es unter dem Titel Ankündigung eines systematischen Verzeichnisses [*sic*] . . . heraus."

Prange, 'Verz. Schrift. Naturgesch.' p. 207, copies Cobres.

The earliest review which I have seen of the issue entitled 'Systematisches Verzeichniß' &c., is Erxleben's, in his 'Physikalische Bibliothek,' iv. Stück 2, pp. 190-207 (1777); but others soon follow. In Denis's own work on 'Die Merkwürdigkeiten der k. k. garelischen öffentl. Bibliothek am Theresiano' (Wien, Bernardi, 1780), of which the preface is dated 3rd Nov., 1778, we find (pp. 16-32) a chronological list of works in the library which appeared from 1747 to 1778. Under 1775 there is no mention of the 'Ankündigung,' but under 1776 the Syst. Verz. is duly registered, with the comment "durch des ersten [*i. e.* Schiffermüller's] Beförderung zum Directorate des so genannten nordischen Collegiums in Linz ist die Fortsetzung dieses Werkes wenigstens auf einige Jahre gehemmet worden."

Mr. Durrant calls my attention to a possible further complication. Engelmann, 514, and Hagen, ii. 122, quote the 1776 edition as "Wien (Beek)"; but all the copies which I have seen or which are noticed in the early writers were published by Bernardi; and Dr. Taschenberg explains to me that the fact that Engelmann places "Beek" in brackets indicates that that name will *not* be found on the titlepage, but that "das ist entweder der Commissionsverlag oder der Eigentümer der Firma Bernardi" (*in litt.*, 8 Mar., 1900).

I have at present quite an open mind as to whether the date 1775 should be accepted for this work or not; but in the meanwhile I venture to make a practical suggestion that for "priority" rank it should be placed *after* the other 1775 literature (Fabricius, Syst. Ent.; Naturforscher vi., vii., &c.), but *before* that of 1776 (Sulzer, Abgek. Geschichte; Müller, Zool. Dan. Prodr.; Naturforscher viii. &c.). I also gladly follow Mr. Sherborn's suggestion (*in litt.*), and recommend that henceforth it be cited as "Schmett. Wien," as this does not cause any confusion in the title.

246 Richmond Road, N.E.,
16th March, 1900.

Abundance of the Greater Sil-Smelt (Argentina silus, Ascan.) on the Market of Boston, Lincolnshire. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

The Natural History Museum has received, through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Shrubsole, F.G.S., specimens of this rare fish, measuring up to 14 inches, which had been sent to him by Mr. F. Kime, with the information that great numbers had been brought on the 25th June to Boston and sold in every direction. The only record of the capture in English waters of this deep-sea fish well known from the coast of Norway is of a quantity taken on the 15th June, 1898, off the south coast of Ireland (*cf.* Holt, Journ. Mar. Biol. Assoc. v. 1898, p. 341). Mr. Kime writes to me that these fish, which excited great curiosity on the market, were caught in deep water somewhere about the coast of Norway.